

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE VOCALESSENCE WITNESS PROGRAM

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the impact of VocalEssence, a Minneapolis-based vocal ensemble of international repute. Through their WITNESS program, they have taught, performed alongside, and serenaded more than 155,000 students throughout the Twin Cities over 26 years.

The WITNESS vision began in 1991 with one school and one teaching artist. It has since grown to more than 40 schools and 9 teaching artists, impacting more than 5,000 students annually. The program provides diverse role models and increased exposure to the arts through performances and classroom workshops. For many students, WITNESS is their first opportunity to receive professional training or perform at a major concert hall. The program celebrates the contributions of African Americans to choral music—a rich history that has led to collaborations with James Earl Jones, Rita Dove, Billy Taylor, and countless others.

This year, WITNESS is hosting the Morehouse College Glee Club. These young men from a Historically Black College are living proof of the world of possibility for students of color. Over 200 young men from six Twin Cities high schools will rehearse and perform alongside some of the brightest Black minds in our country. It is crucial that we celebrate Black culture; when we do, we must include Black youth at the helm. VocalEssence WITNESS does just that.

I commend VocalEssence for the WITNESS program's success in educating, engaging and inspiring students in the Twin Cities. VocalEssence has given our community so much beauty through their music, and they continue to better our future through their top-notch community program WITNESS. I can't wait to see what they accomplish in the future.

BRUCE DEMOLLI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the outstanding achievements of Mr. Bruce DeMolli, who was being honored by the Murray Family and the New Jersey Department for Persons with Disabilities at their 46th Annual Dinner Dance on Sunday, February 21, 2016.

Bruce joined the Our Lady of the Highway Knights of Columbus Council 3835 in Little Falls, based at Our Lady of the Holy Angels Church in 1984 and has been an active member ever since. He was installed as the N.J.

Knights of Columbus State Deputy, becoming the state CEO of the Knights for the next two years.

Bruce became a state officer 10 years ago when he was elected State Warden. He was instrumental in forming two new councils: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Number 11943 in Wayne, New Jersey and the Immaculate Council Number 12211 in Clifton, New Jersey.

From 2004–2006, Bruce served as the Chairman of the Paterson Federation Knights of Columbus. The Paterson Federation is a representation of the Councils in the counties of Morris, Passaic and Sussex. The Federation is dedicated to serving and providing all the councils within its boundaries the assistance needed to help them excel in all areas of Columbianism. In recognition for his faithful service to his church and community, Bruce was honored by Pope Benedict XVI as a Knight of Saint Gregory.

Bruce has been married to his wife, Anna, for more than 40 years and they have one daughter, Bree, and two grandchildren, Tyler and Maya. Bruce's wife serves as director at Diocesan Catholic Charities' La Vida Childcare Centers I & II in Paterson.

The Murray House is a great organization which supports a cause that is near and dear to me and my wife Elsie. They are the longest running group home in the State of New Jersey for adults with developmental disabilities. The fact that they have chosen to honor Bruce at their annual Dinner Dance is only fitting as he is a great servant in the cause of helping others.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of dedicated individuals such as Bruce DeMolli.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Bruce's family, friends, and all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing his leadership, dedication, and loyalty to serving his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF J. BRAD JONES FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CAREER IN FEDERAL CIVILIAN SERVICE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor J. Brad Jones, Director of Continuous Process Improvement at Tobyhanna Army Depot. Brad will be retiring on March 3, 2016 after more than 37 years of service to the Department of the Army and Tobyhanna Army Depot. From the rank of first line supervisor to his most recent service as a Senior Director, Brad has been a key member of Tobyhanna for decades.

Over the course of his career, Brad has made significant contributions to Tobyhanna

Army Depot. His insight and input made him a valued member of each core team that developed and implemented plans to reorganize and modernize the installation as it evolved. In 1991, Brad was a member of the Department of Defense Study Team for the Consolidation of Ground Communications—Electronics, which established the foundation for pivotal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decisions in 1995. He developed the strategy and tactics to defend Tobyhanna from the threat of closure and resulted in the transfer of U.S. Air Force work from California to Tobyhanna. In 2005, he was Team Leader of the Tobyhanna BRAC group, which resulted in the transfer of Navy and Marine Corps workload from two sites in California to Tobyhanna. Brad helped lead Tobyhanna's effort that resulted in the award of seven Shingo medals for manufacturing excellence and the 2012 Department of Army Lean-Six Sigma Excellence Award. Brad was a team leader in attaining accreditation and the continued certification of Tobyhanna Army Depot under International Standards Organization 9001 for Quality, as well as under Aerospace Standards 9100/9110. These standards of excellence helped Tobyhanna maintain its competitive edge.

Brad was also known for his interpersonal skills with employees, labor officials, and managers. As Director of Personnel and Chief of Management Employee Relations, he was able to streamline processes and cut red tape. As Depot Operations Officer and Chief of Staff, he ensured success of the day-to-day mission and base support operations of the depot, while coordinating the administrative actions of the Tobyhanna Army Depot Command Group and Headquarters.

It is an honor to recognize J. Brad Jones for such an extraordinary career. I am grateful for all of his efforts for the sake of our nation's military. I wish him the best, and may he enjoy a long and fulfilling retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. JULIA AARON HUMBLES

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of Mrs. Julia Aaron Humbles, who gave of herself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, her dedicated service is present in New Orleans, Louisiana and Metropolitan Atlanta, for all to see her as an unwavering advocate of justice for the youth, the elderly, the poor and the downtrodden; and

Whereas, this remarkable, positive woman with a beautiful smile gave of herself, her time and her talent; never asking for fame or fortune but only to uplift those in need; and

Whereas, she led by example from behind the scenes, and was on the frontline for our

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